

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



549 549

(43) International Publication Date
30 September 2004 (30.09.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/082390 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: A23F 3/08, 3/14

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/002559

(22) International Filing Date: 11 March 2004 (11.03.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
293/MUM/03 21 March 2003 (21.03.2003) IN
0310563.2 8 May 2003 (08.05.2003) GB

(71) Applicant (for AE, AG, AU, BB, BW, BZ, CA, CY, EG, GB, GD, GH, GM, IE, IL, KE, LC, LK, LS, MN, MW, NA, NZ, OM, PG, SC, SD, SG, SL, SZ, TT, TZ, UG, VC, ZA, ZM, ZW only): UNILEVER PLC [GB/GB]; Unilever House, Blackfriars, London, Greater London EC4P 4BQ (GB).

(71) Applicant (for AL, AM, AT, AZ, BA, BE, BF, BG, BJ, BR, BY, CF, CG, CH, CI, CM, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, FR, GA, GE, GN, GQ, GR, GW, HR, HU, ID, IS, IT, JP, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LR, LT, LU, LV, MA, MC, MD, MG, MK, ML, MR, MX, MZ, NE, NI, NL, NO, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SE, SI, SK, SN, SY, TD, TG, TJ, TM, TN, TR, UA, UZ, VN, YU only): UNILEVER NV [NL/NL]; Weena 455, 3013 AL Rotterdam (NL).

(71) Applicant (for IN only): HINDUSTAN LEVER LIMITED [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever House, 165/166 Backbay Reclamation, Maharashtra, Mumbai, 400 020 (IN).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): GANESAN, Velu [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever Ltd, Daverashola Tea Factory, Daverashola P.O., Gudalur Via, The Nilgiris District (IN). MOHAN, Ravi [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever Ltd, Tea Estates India Division, Divisional Office, Valparai, Coimbatore

District (IN). PADMANAHAN, Vijayan [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever Ltd, Research Centre, 64 Main Road, Whitefield P.O., Bangalore, 560 066 (IN). SAWANT, Madhuri, Harishchandra [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever Ltd, Research Centre, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai, 400 099 (IN). SHARMA, Navin, Kumar [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever Ltd, Research Centre, 64 Main Road, Whitefield P.O., Bangalore, 560 066 (IN). SINKAR, Vilas, Pandurang [IN/IN]; Hindustan Lever Ltd, Research Centre, 64 Main Road, Whitefield P.O., Bangalore, 560 066 (IN).

(74) Agent: HUGOT, Alain, Eric, Philippe; Unilever PLC, Patent Department, Colworth House, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1LQ (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: TEA MANUFACTURE

(57) Abstract: A process for manufacturing a cold water soluble black leaf tea comprises the steps of (a) optionally withering freshly plucked tea leaf, (b) macerating the leaves, (c) allowing the leaves to ferment, (d) firing the leaves to arrest fermentation and (e) then drying them to yield black leaf tea, the process being characterised in that the tea leaves are treated before fermentation or before mid-fermentation with a pH lowering agent, followed by treatment during fermentation with ascorbic acid, salts of ascorbic acid or mixtures thereof at mid-fermentation or later in an amount that is sufficient for the black leaf tea to be infusible in water at 5 to 100 °C.

WO 2004/082390 A1